

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 6 and 8 in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Application

Claims 6 and 8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-15 were previously cancelled. Claims 18-26 were previously withdrawn. Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,849,967 to Lathrop *et al.* (the "Lathrop patent"). Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0190576 A1 to Kern *et al.*. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

According to the Examiner, the Lathrop patent discloses the subject matter of claims 6 and 8. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the amendments to these claims. In particular, the Lathrop patent does not disclose balancing loads and power consumption in the event notice of a service interruption is provided in advance. Therefore, applicants believe that claims 6 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056205.55944US).

Respectfully submitted,

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